literacy, lack of motivation of learners, non-availability of literate volunteers, insufficient involvement of voluntary agencies, lack of mass media support, absence of linkage between the basic literacy, post-literacy and continuing education etc. Some of the steps taken to eradicate illiteracy throughout the country under the National Literacy Mission include revision and re-organisation of the centre-based programme to provide for area approach, launching of total literacy compaigns which are area specific. time-bound, volunteer-based, cost-effective and result oriented in sharp contrast with the traditional centre based programmes, organising country-wide jathas for motivating both the literates and the illiterates, increasing involvement of students in literacy programmes and organising post-literacy campaigns in districts covered by the total literacy campaigns in addition to providing facilities of post literacy and continuing education through Jana Shikshan Nilayams in other districts.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas

1550. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to open one Navodaya Vidyalaya in every district of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have opened Navodaya Vidyalayas in every district of Bihar; and

(c) if not, by when Government propose to open Navodaya Vidyalayas in all the districts of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas envisages establishment of one Navodaya Vidyalayas on an average in each district of the country. The location is selected based on the offer of the State Government/U.T. Administration in the first instance. Thirty acres of land, free of cost, sufficient buildings and other infrastructure are provided by the State Government/ U.T. Administration concerned for running the Vidyalayas initially for a period of 2-3 years. So far 280 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned in the country. Out of total 39 districts of Bihar, Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in 26 districts.

The opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas has to be done in a phased manner, depending upon the suitability of proposals, availability of physical facilities and financial resources. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the time frame by which Navodaya Vidyalayas would be opened in the remaining districts of Bihar.

Abolition of Devdasi System in the Country

1551. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Devdasi' system is still prevalent in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that after becoming Devdasi. most of the girls turn prostitutes and enter in flesh trade;

(d) whether Government are also aware that the dreaded disease. AIDS is spreading through prostitutes in the country; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to abolish 'Devdasi' system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Universalisation of Primary Education

1552. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to universalise the Primary Education;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) what are the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(d) whether any tentative period for universalisation of Primary Education has been fixed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) It is already an accepted policy of the Government in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution, that all children should get free and compulsory education till they complete 14 years of age. The National Policy on Education 1986 recommended that this should be achieved by 1995. Government is making requisite endeavour to provide Universal elementary education and some of the main steps being taken to achieve this goal are:—

(i) the provision of primary schools within 1 km. walking distance from all habitations with a population of 300. In the cse of SC/ST habitations. the norms is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200;

(ii) improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(iii) programmes of part-time Non-Formal Education to school dropouts, girls, working children who cannot attend whole day schools;

(iv) establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(v) Provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;

(vi) provision of upper primary schools and upgrading of primary schools to upper primary level according to the norms.

Holding of Afro-Asian Games

1553. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 172 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 1991 and state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on hosting Afro-Asian Games in the country next year; and

(b) whether Government propose to keep in view the current constraint on resources while considering the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE